GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3751
ANSWERED ON:22.03.2001
CRASH OF DEFENCE PLANES BY BIRD HIT
RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of MIGs lost in accidents due to bird hit since their induction;

(b) whether the Government are aware that birds hover near airports due to filth, meat pieces and other items of food;

(c) whether rule 81B of Aircraft Act 1934 has been implemented in all air force fields;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to prevent illegal slaughter of animals within a radius of 10 km. from airfields, specially Hindon Air Port?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a) Sixty seven MIG series aircraft have been lost in Category-I accidents due to Bird Hit till 15th March, 2001.

(b) to (e): The Government are aware of the problems of birds, hovering near the airports and have been taking steps to implement anti-bird measure programme at all Air Force Stations, including Air Force Station, Hindon.

The Government have introduced an amendment to the Aircraft Act, 1934 in 1988, making it a punishable offence to throw garbage or flay dead animals, open slaughter houses or carcass disposal plants within 10 km. radius of airfields. This is being implemented. Within the Air Force bases, all round vegetation clearance has been undertaken on regular basis. Besides this, other Ministries viz. Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Urban Development are also implementing action plans for sanitising areas around the airfields. Further, the High Powered Committee on Fighter Aircraft Accidents (COFAA), constituted under the Chairmanship of Scientific Advisor to Raksha Mantri, to analyse the cause of accidents, has, inter alia, made certain recommendations on environmental aspects, in its report, submitted in September, 1997, which are being implemented.